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May 17, 1973

Honorable F. Edward Hebert  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
2120 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Concomitant with our drawdown and expected withdrawal from Southeast Asia, I believe that it is necessary for the Congress, and especially our Armed Services Committee, to know all the facts surrounding American involvement in that part of the world.

With that in mind, I feel that information regarding the operations of Air America, Inc. and its relationship with the United States government are vital to any intelligent assessment of the situation.

To that end I have formulated and listed below a number of questions which should yield information of great value both to the House Armed Services Committee and to the Congress.

What is the full nature of the relationship between Air America and the United States Government?

Since January 27, 1973 (the effective date of the peace agreement) how many new aircrew and ground personnel have been hired by Air America? How many such employees have left it over the same period?

Of the new hires how many are United States citizens? Of the others, what nationalities and how many of each are involved?

What types of aircraft, and how many of each type, did Air America operate as of the following dates: October 19, 1972, January 27, 1973 and May 16, 1973?

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In what countries does Air America operate, and what percentage of air operation are carried out over each country? Where are the ground facilities used by Air America located?

What types of missions, and how many of each type, did Air America fly in the periods October 19, 1972 to January 26, 1973 and January 27, 1973 to May 16, 1973?

How many, if any, of the above missions involved armed aircraft, and how much of what types of ordnance was expended? Also, where was such ordnance expended and for what purpose?

Does the Central Intelligence Agency have combat personnel in Indochina and, if so, where are they located? Does the CIA fly combat or rescue missions?

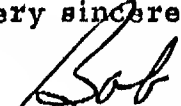
In the same time periods, how much cargo was delivered by point-to-point flight of cargo-designated aircraft, how much by airdrop, and how much by light and rotary-winged aircraft? Where and to whom was such cargo delivered by CIA or Air America?

How many Air America or CIA personnel have died in Southeast Asia and by what means? Also, how many, if any, are missing or are known to be detained by any foreign entity? When and where were such persons lost and, in the case of any detainees, by whom are they being held?

When we possess these facts, we should have a much clearer view of our government's involvement in Southeast Asia; we then should be able to assess much more clearly the value of that involvement.

Obviously these questions could be asked through a Resolution of Inquiry. I thought this informal procedure would save time and trouble.

Very sincerely,

  
ROBERT L. LEGGETT  
Member of Congress

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